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- Joe Christo interviews Denise Garcia about international small arms trade

FROM THE DEAN — AN INTRODUCTION TO WCCI

Our School offers many opportunities for faculty and students at Northeastern to become deeply involved in research and action projects that help meet the many challenges facing the Greater Boston region and the Commonwealth in the 21st century. Now, through our new World Class Cities Initiative (WCCI), the School is putting its urban focus into a global context.

The purpose of the WCCI is to bring together — through annual conferences and electronic media — city officials and practitioners, university faculty and students, and policy innovators to address the challenges and opportunities that face mid-sized metropolitan areas that have emerged (or are emerging) as global centers for the knowledge economy and as centers for culture and the arts.

Our goal is to begin with 8-10 cities of the scale, scope, and promise of Boston and its surrounding metro area with the purpose of addressing such common concerns as affordable housing, local economic development, environmental sustainability, immigration, education, workforce readiness, transportation, public safety, the provision of cultural and recreational amenities, and public finance. To date, the mayors of Hangzhou, China and Frankfurt, Germany have agreed to join as charter members of the initiative. Other cities that will be contacted to assess their interest in joining this effort include Barcelona, Spain; Melbourne, Australia; Haifa, Israel; Kyoto, Japan; Vancouver, Canada; Alexandria,

EDITOR’S NOTE

With this edition, *News and Notes* begins a new format. The newsletter will now feature two thematic editions (Spring and Summer), while the Fall edition will continue to be a general overview of School activities. This edition’s theme is *Global Perspectives*. Our first three pages highlight international activities taking place throughout the School, while the fourth page offers news and event briefs of all sorts. The theme of



A passenger boat in West Lake, Hangzhou, China

Egypt; and Cape Town, South Africa.

The initial or proposed charter cities for this project share many challenges and many opportunities:

*Boston and Hangzhou, China are experiencing a serious lack of affordable housing, making it difficult to attract and retain young workers.*

(continued on Page 4...)

the Summer newsletter will be *Local Challenges*, and amongst other items, will feature an interview with Professor Andrew Sum. We hope you enjoy the new format! Please let us know what you think at [policyschool@neu.edu](mailto:policyschool@neu.edu), and as always, you may continue to find daily news, events, and info at [www.policyschool.neu.edu](http://www.policyschool.neu.edu).

- Joe Christo, Managing Editor

## ENGAGED IN THE WORLD

BY ELENI HIMARAS

Professor Denis Sullivan, Director of the International Affairs program, began taking students on short trips to Egypt in 1994 for Model UN meetings. He grew disenchanted with the idea of taking the students such great distances for them to pretend they were from another country, though.

"I wanted students to bring their own perspective from their own country," he said. "I started developing dialogues, not knowing what they were."

Playing off the name of "Clash of Civilizations" — an article written by famed political scientist Sam Huntington claiming future wars would be born of cultural differences between civilizations — Sullivan created the Dialogue of Civilizations program. Post 9-11, he said, the need for these programs skyrocketed and the first official Dialogue launched in 2002.

This year, 27 Dialogues are heading out to 25 different countries. The number of Dialogues has about doubled every year since its inception.

"These only exploded because the faculty are coming at us with cool ideas," Sullivan said.

One of those faculty members, Denise Horn, an International Affairs professor, has carved out her own niche in the Dialogue of Civilizations program by bringing GPACKT (Global Partnerships for Activism and Cross-Cultural Training) to Northeastern University.

Horn brought the program with her from its birthplace at Rutgers University when she came to Northeastern in 2005. She also started a new branch of the program that does training sessions locally.

Last year, students were able to go to Thailand, where they worked with young women from all over Southeast Asia to tackle the problem of human trafficking by educating those who may be in danger of falling victim to the practice. One such effort, the TaTo project, involved giving video cameras to the local women to go out into the community and make a documentary for a local audience, not a western one, to educate them.

"We work off of a community development model," Horn said. "It is working with your peers in that country and all students are required to go into the community and talk to people to find out what they need, instead of us going in and telling them what we think they need."

In addition to the passion of the faculty, such as Denise Horn, the growing demand by students for these programs has fueled the rapid growth.

Unlike traditional study abroad programs, Dialogue

students are accompanied by a Northeastern faculty member with them for the duration for the trip. Furthermore, the trips are included in tuition instead of the extra fees that are part of full-semester study abroad programs.

Scarlett Trillia, a middle Human Services major, participated in the Cuernavaca, Mexico Dialogue last summer that combined a Spanish language course and a service-learning component.

"It was all really incredible," Trillia said. "The professor (Prof. Lori Gardinier) and her assistant were just remarkable."

Trillia stayed after the Dialogue to do a research project in Mexico using a grant from the Provost's office and said that the only thing she would change about her time in Mexico was "less bug bites."

Beyond the basic bonuses of the program, students may also pick a Dialogue that is appropriate to their major, such as an Egyptian Dialogue that pairs service learning and fluid mechanics for engineers or a Spanish Dialogue that pairs a public health class with a Spanish language course for nurses.

"I'm not sure what you call it in marketing when you introduce a new product and there is all of a sudden a new market. Kind of like the iPod, no one demanded an iPod but now there is a huge demand. I like to think we've created the academic iPod," Sullivan said.

Like iPods, this academic endeavor is continually evolving. Sullivan is planning to create graduate-student Dialogue programs and Dialogue programs that run during a normal semester with a trip abroad embedded into the program.

Despite these new ideas and swelling participant list, Sullivan said the mission of the Dialogue program is simple and enduring: "We have to make sure we're out there engaged in the world."

### On Our Website:

Looking for conferences, grants, research positions, internships, and service projects? Visit the *Opportunities* pages on our website, located within the *Research and Experiential Learning* sections



An NU student during a Dialogues program in Greece

**BIG RESPONSES TO SMALL ARMS**

BY JOE CRISTO

*Denise Garcia, Assistant Professor in Political Science and International Affairs, specializes in international security, especially small arms trade. Her 2006 book, "Small Arms and Security: New Emerging International Norms," examines how new international norms develop to deal with illicit arms trafficking worldwide. In January 2008, she was a guest at Harvard University's Women and Public Policy Program's "Women and Security Executive Program," which hosted 30 Afghan, Colombian, Haitian, Israeli, Palestinian and Liberian women peacebuilders with experience in the security sector.*

**Why do you feel that small arms trafficking is a key international security issue today?**

It is a key international security issue for mainly three reasons. It affects most of the countries in the world right now. It affects countries that are in conflict or that are in post-conflict transitions — so they are trying to restore the peace but cannot because of the widespread availability of arms. And also, because it affects countries that are at peace — such as Brazil, South Africa, Jamaica — but have problems of urban violence and crime. And among the developed countries, the country that has the highest rate of homicide is the United States, which has so much availability of weapons. It is [also] an issue because more arms are being produced every year, fresh new arms apart from the arms that are already circulating.

**When did it begin to become a very serious concern?**

I would say it started to be an issue of concern right after the end of the Cold War, for several reasons.

One would be that at the end of the Cold War, conflicts that were latent became conflicts on their own — we can name a few, like the Rwandan genocide, the split-up of the former Yugoslavia and also the genocide that happened there as well, and conflicts in other parts of the world like Sri Lanka.

There was really no data, but a few scholars and a few people working on the ground in the regions of conflict started realizing... 'the real problem now is small arms and light weapons.'

A second reason why it became an issue of concern after the Cold War is the bigger black arms market. Weapons that were left over from Cold War conflicts, they started fueling the black market of arms. A third reason is this question of loose arsenals — unsafe arsenals. [And] a fourth element is the increasing role of arms brokers.

By '95 the United Nations issued a document which was a supplement for an agenda for peace. Then, I would

say that the efforts of the international community really started heating up by '98.

**What international norms have developed recently to deal with arms trafficking?**

One would be the new practice of destroying weapons, weapons that are deemed excessive in arsenals [or surplus] or weapons that are seized in illegal dealings or at crime scenes. This practice started in the 90's and most countries practice this nowadays.

A norm that is really strong right now is a norm of marking, tracing, and record keeping of weapons. The international community has moved towards — and has negotiated — an instrument, a treaty that is just politically binding on states, and it was negotiated in 2004. [editor's note: Ms. Garcia advised the Brazilian delegation for the negotiations.]

Another emerging international norm would be very controversial — the banning of sale of weapons to non-state actors. That is a norm that has been failing to take hold however, mainly due to the opposition of the United States, and a few other countries like Israel, Russia, China, and Cuba. It's really failing to become a clause, to become a paragraph in any of the multi-national treaties.

I would say a norm against illicit arms brokering is taking hold strongly as well.

**How do these norms transform into concrete policy? How does that transformation take place?**

From an international law perspective, when a treaty is legally binding, then immediately states would have to [abide by it]. Now, half of what there is out there in the world for controlling arms is really soft law, laws that are politically binding agreements. But that doesn't mean that they are not producing change. All of them are producing change on some level.

For example, there were a couple of instruments in sub-Saharan West Africa that were initially politically binding, and then with the passing of years and practices and meeting of states they now decided to turn them into legally binding.

There is an interesting treaty at the European level, which is politically binding only. It's the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. This was negotiated in 1998. Every year the states meet and have to issue a report...they have to tell their stories of what they're doing basically.

The work of civil society is also very strong in this area — the work of thousands of NGOs around the world.

**School Fact:**

Did you know that the School has over 130 faculty, researchers, and staff? Or that it teaches over 1,400 undergrad students and over 500 graduate students?

**On Our Website:**

To learn more about your colleagues in departments throughout the School, visit the *Faculty Spotlight* section on our homepage. To recommend a faculty member who should be featured, please email [policyschool@neu.edu](mailto:policyschool@neu.edu).

## WHAT'S SSUAPP

**Doctoral candidate Samantha Christiansen (HST)**, had her paper, "We Are All Angry: Violence, the Angry Brigade, and British Counterculture," accepted for the EU funded conference *Confronting Cold War Conformity* to be held at Charles University, Prague in Aug. 2008.

**Professor Tom Koenig (SOC)** was the lead speaker at the first national conference on "Crimtorts" at Weidener Law School on Feb. 25, 2008.

Crimtorts is a word coined by Professors Koenig and Michael Rustad to describe the expanding middle ground between criminal and tort law.

**Professor Kwamina Panford (AFR)** gave a talk titled "Is Ghana still the Black Star of Africa and the Developing World?" at MIT's Sloan School of Management on Feb. 25, 2008.

**The following faculty members** who produced scholarly or creative works in 2007 were honored at the

University's Faculty Works reception on Feb. 19, 2008: Debra Kaufman (SOC), Gerald Herman (HST), Harlow Robinson (HST), William F.S. Miles (POL), Arnold Arluke (SOC), Anthony Jones (SOC), James Alan Fox (LPS), Jack Levin (SOC).

**Two doctoral candidates**, Chris Chanyasulkit (POL) and Francesca Gilkey (SOC) participated in the MA Health Policy Forum on Jan. 9 & 10, 2008, at the State House. The pur-

pose of the forum was to give advanced graduate students of policy, health, and medicine direct insight into how state government health policy is created and implemented.

**Undergraduate students** Carolina Morgan (ECN), Tom Jay Cinq-Mars (HST), and Robert Uvanovic (IAF) were three of the eight recipients of the highly competitive Presidential Scholarship this year.

## FROM THE DEAN (CONT.)

*Boston and Frankfurt, Germany are trying to find ways to integrate a growing foreign immigrant population into their cities.*

*Most of the proposed charter cities have ports and harbors. How is each city re-purposing these to enhance the quality of life in the city and encourage economic development?*

The WCCI will bring together cities working on the same issues to ask the questions: What has been tried? What has made a positive impact? What has failed and why? In doing so,

we hope to learn from each other's experiences, policies, and programs. The expectation is that an understanding of each other's best practices will improve the prosperity and quality of life at home.

The WCCI will carry out its work through joint research projects; annual international conferences; inter-city exchanges of government officials, city agency staff, faculty, and students; and frequent international teleconference/tele-presence "meetings" and "colloquia" using state-of-the-art Infor-

mation and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Unlike many international organizations, the delegation from each charter member of the World Class Cities Initiative will bring together elected and appointed officials, agency personnel, and policy advisers with faculty, researchers, and students from one or more of the leading universities in each city.

The WCCI will go beyond simply sharing existing research or experiences, and will focus on undertaking

joint research with teams comprised of members from each of the charter cities. It will be an active research organization, connecting practitioners with academics as dynamic partners addressing urban issues. Based on the philosophy of our School, the WCCI will be structured along the concept of "Think and Do" – learning by doing, and doing based on learning.

I look forward to your input in helping to shape this exciting initiative as it continues to grow.

- Dean Barry Bluestone

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*The School has many events planned during the remainder of this Spring semester. To get more detail on the events listed below, and to find many more events within the School and throughout the region, visit [www.policyschool.neu.edu/events](http://www.policyschool.neu.edu/events), which is updated twice per week.*

**March 27:** Social Science Research Workshop: Outsourcing Difference: Expatriate Training and the Disciplining of Culture  
3 pm - 4 pm, 306 Meserve Hall

**April 3:** Social Science Research Workshop: Collateral Damage Killings of Civilians in War: A Problem in Ethics and Public Policy  
3 pm - 4 pm, 306 Meserve Hall

**April 7:** Global History Seminar: The World of the American Revolution  
4 pm - 6 pm, 406 Egan Building

**April 17:** Social Science Research Workshop: Radicalism in the Eastern Mediterranean Circa 1900  
3 pm - 4 pm, 306 Meserve Hall

School of Social Science, Urban Affairs, and Public Policy — 343 Holmes Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115

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